AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended)   A sanitizable float valve to be used in water purification circulation, said valve comprising:

a body (1) defining a valve chamber,

a fluid inlet (6) disposed in said body (1) fluidly communicating with said chamber;

a fluid outlet (8) disposed in <u>a side of</u> said body (1) fluidly communicating with said chamber; and

a closing element (2) placed into said valve chamber of said body (1) to move vertically within said valve chamber, said closing element having a rounded lower end dimensioned to engage a contact surface of a float at a point and a length essentially longer than a diameter of said closing element such that as said closing element moves within said valve chamber said point of contact between said closing element and said float moves along a surface of said rounded lower end, <u>said closing element (2) having a partly convex sealing surface disposed opposite said rounded lower end, said sealing surface (5) dimensioned to sealingly engage said fluid inlet (6) of said valve;</u>

wherein said valve chamber of said body (1) and said closing element (2) are dimensioned to form an allowance therebetween and wherein a part of a fluid exiting said valve exits downwardly through said allowance thus flushing said rounded lower end of said closing element and a majority of said fluid exiting said valve exits through said fluid outlet (8) when said valve is open.

Claims 2-3   (canceled)

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4.   (previously presented)   A float valve in accordance with claim 1, wherein said valve chamber is substantially cylindrical in form and said closing element (2) of said valve is substantially circular in cross section.

5.   (previously presented)   A float valve in accordance with claim 1, wherein said closing element is made of PTFE.

Claim 6   (canceled)